## Contents

1	Introduction: what is nineteenth-century literature?	1
	Overview 1 Literary periodisation 1 Literature and change: history versus chronology 4 Literary history and literary theory 7 Methodology: history versus histories 8 Chapter summary 10 Conclusion 12	
2	The contexts of nineteenth-century literature	13
	Overview 13 Economics and technology 14 Intellectual and political life 22 Consumerism, print culture and literary taste 29 Nineteenth-century literary genres 33 Themes in nineteenth-century literature 37 Conclusion 53	
3	Form, style and genre in nineteenth-century literature	54
	Overview 54 Conceptualising changes in form 54 Poetry 62 Fiction 79 Drama 94 Non-fictional prose 104 Conclusion 113	
4	Nineteenth-century literary movements	115
	Overview 115 Defining literary movements 115 Pre-Raphaelitism 121	

	Decadence and Symbolism 136 Conclusion 143	
5	Nineteenth-century literature and history	145
	Overview 145 Defining the relationship between literature and context 147 The contexts of Romanticism 150 The contexts of the social-problem novel 157 The contexts of the society comedy 163 Conclusion 169	
6	Nineteenth-century literature and the politics of sex and nationalism	170
	Overview 170 Feminism 172 Queer theory 183 Postcolonial theory 188 Conclusion 195	
7	Nineteenth-century literature and the social production of texts  Overview 197  Nineteenth-century literature and commodity culture 198  Nineteenth-century publishing institutions 201  Nineteenth-century literary markets 208  Editing nineteenth-century literature 215  Conclusion 223	197
	Glossary of terms and contested definitions Guide to primary sources Guide to further reading Works cited	224 24 24 250
	Index	26.

vi Contents

Aestheticism 128